

REMARKS

Claims 1-16 were rejected under 35 USC 102(b) as being anticipated by Thomas et al (US 5,540,479). Claims 17-20 were rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Thomas et al (US 5,540,479).

The Applicant respectfully traverses these rejections and seeks reconsideration in light of the aforementioned amendments and following arguments.

There are four independently novel limitations taught and claimed by the present invention that are neither taught nor suggested by the cited Thomas reference.

The first constitutes an override feature wherein the armrest effectuates headrest movement, but can be manually overridden. This limitation could be found at the end of paragraph 20 as originally filed. This amendment has hereto been amended into independent claim 1. Therefore patentable consideration is warranted.

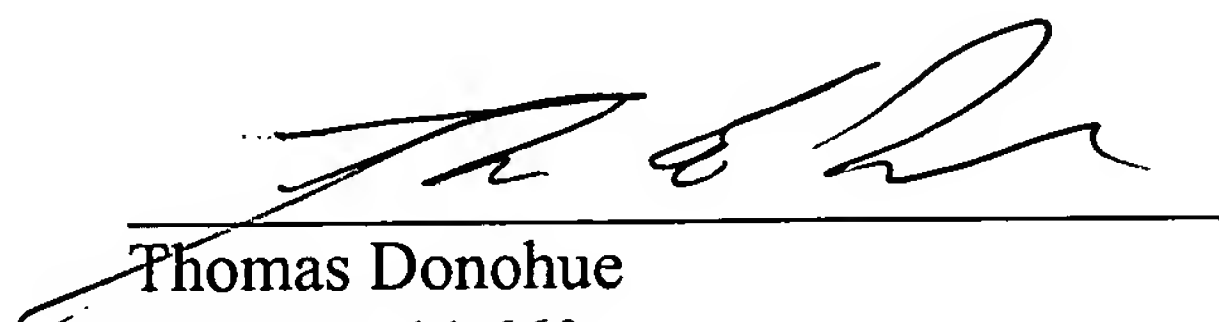
Secondly, the present invention claimed a flip-down configuration wherein the headrest was flipped forward rather than withdrawn into the seat. This is neither taught, nor suggested by the Thomas reference. This is novel and independently patentable (Current limitation found in claims 4, 10 and 17). It allows the system to be installed into a larger variety of vehicles wherein interior seat size limitations may prevent headrest movement into the seatback.

In addition, in claim 10, it is paired with an additional limitation not taught or suggested by Thomas, namely a trigger (also in original claim 7). The trigger effectuated embodiment allows a simple actuation in addition to the opportunity for manual override – a rigid mechanical system as shown in Thomas provides no such flexibility.

The Applicant respectfully seeks reconsideration in this light as well as the aforementioned arguments. The present application contains and claims several patentable limitations not taught or suggested by the cited reference.

The Applicant would like to thank the Examiner for his time and asserts the application is now in condition for allowance.

Respectfully submitted,



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